



State of Wisconsin
2023 - 2024 LEGISLATURE

LRB-0639/1
FFK:amn

2023 ASSEMBLY BILL 40

February 13, 2023 - Introduced by Representatives ALLEN, MURPHY, ARMSTRONG, BEHNKE, EDMING, GUNDRUM, GUSTAFSON, KNODL, MURSAU and SPIROS, cosponsored by Senators QUINN and CABRAL-GUEVARA. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 **AN ACT** *to amend* 118.016 (1) (b); and *to create* 118.016 (3) and 118.016 (4) of
2 the statutes; **relating to:** reading readiness assessments and making an
3 appropriation.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, school boards and independent charter schools must annually assess pupils enrolled in four-year-old kindergarten to second grade for reading readiness using an assessment of literacy fundamentals selected by the school board or independent charter school. The selected reading readiness assessment must evaluate whether a pupil possesses phonemic awareness and letter sound knowledge. Current law does not provide a timeline for completing the assessment. Current law also requires a school board or independent charter school to provide interventions or remedial reading services to a pupil if the reading readiness assessment indicates that the pupil is at risk of reading difficulty. Current law requires school boards and independent charter schools to report the results of a pupil's reading readiness assessment to the pupil's parent or guardian but does not require school boards and independent charter schools to report reading readiness assessment results to the Department of Public Instruction or the legislature.

This bill requires school boards and independent charter schools to 1) assess pupils in four-year-old kindergarten to second grade for reading readiness, as required under current law, by November 15 of each school year and 2) submit to DPI the number of pupils identified as at risk of reading difficulty based on the results of the reading readiness assessment by January 1 of each school year. Under the bill,

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DPI must submit the information it receives from school boards and independent charter schools to the appropriate standing committees of the legislature by no later than April 1. The bill also provides onetime funding in the amount of \$500,000 to DPI to establish a system to track data that school boards and independent charter schools must submit to DPI. Finally, the bill authorizes DPI to promulgate rules related to the administration of the reading readiness assessment requirements.

For further information see the state fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

1 **SECTION 1.** 118.016 (1) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

2 118.016 (1) (b) ~~Beginning in the 2016-17 school year~~ By November 15 of each
3 school year, each school board and the operator of each charter school established
4 under s. 118.40 (2r) or (2x) shall, using the appropriate, valid, and reliable
5 assessment of literacy fundamentals selected by the school board or operator,
6 ~~annually~~ assess each pupil enrolled in 4-year-old kindergarten to 2nd grade in the
7 school district or in the charter school for reading readiness. The school board or
8 operator shall ensure that the assessment evaluates whether a pupil possesses
9 phonemic awareness and letter sound knowledge. A school board or operator may
10 administer computer adaptive assessments.

11 **SECTION 2.** 118.016 (3) of the statutes is created to read:

12 118.016 (3) (a) By January 1 of each school year, each school board and operator
13 of a charter school under s. 118.40 (2r) or (2x) shall report to the department the
14 number of pupils in the school district or charter school whose assessment under sub.
15 (1) indicates that the pupil is at risk of reading difficulty.

16 (b) By April 1 of each school year, the department shall submit the information
17 it receives under par. (a) to the appropriate standing committees of the legislature
18 under s. 13.172 (3).

